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Pair Sentenced to Prison for Killing Defendant's Mother

A 29-year-old woman and her 32-year-old boyfriend both received life sentences yesterday for killing the woman's mother, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Angela Jordan said Troy Monroe Hill was sentenced on Wednesday to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Johnson's co-defendant, Shannon Marie LaFon, was sentenced to 15 years to life in prison.

A jury convicted Hill on Jan. 30 of one count of first-degree murder with a special circumstance allegation of lying in wait. Jurors also found true an allegation that Hill used an ax handle as a deadly weapon.

LaFon, the victim's daughter, pleaded no contest on June 7, 2017, to one count of second-degree murder.

The couple was homeless and had been staying at the Van Nuys home of victim Trudy Douglass, 53, when she asked them both to leave. On or between Nov. 4 and 8, 2014, Hill struck Douglass with an ax handle and then used the handle to strangle the woman to death, the prosecutor said.

Both defendants then dragged the victim into a bathtub and left her there, the prosecutor added.

Case LA079202 was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.